

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A tilt steering apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:

- a lower bracket mounted on a steering column;
- a fixed gear formed on a bottom surface of the lower bracket;
- a movable gear having a top surface toothed to the fixed gear, the movable gear being pivotably movable on a hinge formed at one side thereof;
- a lock slider that disengagably locks the movable gear to the fixed gear;
- a support bracket that supports the lock slider;
- an operation lever having one side hinged for rotation; and
- a motion converter that converts a rotational motion of the operation lever to a rectilinear motion of the lock slider,

wherein the lock slider is provided with a guide groove configured to detachably receive the operation lever therein.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the motion converter comprises a the guide groove formed on the lock slider so as to position the operation lever.

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3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a width of the guide groove is greater than a width of the operation lever.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a circular portion having a diameter equal to the width of the guide groove is formed on the operation lever disposed in the guide groove.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein borderlines on both sides of the guide groove are parallel to each other.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the motion converter is formed by hinging the operation lever and the lock slider together.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a bottom surface of the movable gear is curved.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a downward ~~refraction~~ deflection portion formed on a tip portion of one side of the movable gear; and

an extension portion formed on a tip portion of one side of the lock slider,

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wherein the downward ~~refraction~~ deflection portion and the extension portion contact with each other when the movable gear is released.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a spring is attached to the tip portion of ~~one side of~~ the lock slider.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a spring is attached to the operation lever.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the support bracket comprises a spring support member that retains the spring.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

a downward ~~refraction~~ deflection portion formed on a tip portion of one side of the movable gear; and

an extension portion formed on a tip portion of one side of the lock slider, wherein the downward ~~refraction~~ deflection portion and the extension portion contact with each other when the movable gear is released.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising:

a downward ~~refraction~~ deflection portion formed on a tip portion of one side of the movable gear; and

an extension portion formed on a tip portion of one side of the lock slider, wherein the downward ~~refraction~~ deflection portion and the extension portion contact with each other when the movable gear is released.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

a downward ~~refraction~~ deflection portion formed on a tip portion of one side of the movable gear; and

an extension portion formed on a tip portion of one side of the lock slider, wherein the downward ~~refraction~~ deflection portion and the extension portion contact with each other when the movable gear is released.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

a downward ~~refraction~~ deflection portion formed on a tip portion of one side of the movable gear; and

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an extension portion formed on a tip portion of one side of the lock slider, wherein the downward ~~refraction~~ deflection portion and the extension portion contact with each other when the movable gear is released.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

a downward ~~refraction~~ deflection portion formed on a tip portion of one side of the movable gear; and

an extension portion formed on a tip portion of one side of the lock slider, wherein the downward ~~refraction~~ deflection portion and the extension portion contact with each other when the movable gear is released.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a downward ~~refraction~~ deflection portion formed on a tip portion of one side of the movable gear; and

an extension portion formed on a tip portion of one side of the lock slider, wherein the downward ~~refraction~~ deflection portion and the extension portion contact with each other when the movable gear is released.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a

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spring is attached to the tip portion of ~~one side of~~ the lock slider.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a spring is attached to the tip portion of ~~one side of~~ the lock slider.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a spring is attached to the tip portion of ~~one side of~~ the lock slider.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein a spring is attached to the tip portion of ~~one side of~~ the lock slider.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a spring is attached to the tip portion of ~~one side of~~ the lock slider.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein a spring is attached to the tip portion of ~~one side of~~ the lock slider.

25. – 30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a spring is attached to the operation lever.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a spring is attached to the operation lever.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a spring is attached to the operation lever.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein a spring is attached to the operation lever.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a spring is attached to the operation lever.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein a spring is attached to the operation lever.